

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB660

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 22, 2014
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Krist
One Liner: Provide for extension of a pilot project and a contract relating to case management

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Watermeier, Krist, Howard, Gloor, Crawford, Cook, Campbell
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:
Senator Bob Krist
Ruth Henrichs
James R. Blue
Aimee S. Melton
Georgie Scurfield
Lawrence Kelley
Sarah Forrest
Nicole Brundo
David Newell

Representing:
District #10
CAFCON- Children and Families Coalition of Nebraska
Cedars Youth Services
Omaha City Council/Reagan Melton & Delany LLP
NASW- National Association of Social Workers
Self
Voices for Children
Douglas County Attorney's Office
Nebraska Families Collaborative

Opponents:
William E. Reay

Representing:
OMNI Behavioral Health

Neutral:
Kerrey T. Winterer
Cindy Tierney
Sarah Helvey

Representing:
DHHS
Concord Mediation Center
Nebraska Appleseed

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The purpose of this bill is to require the department to extend the contract for the lead agency for the model pilot project described in subsection (2) of Section 68-1212, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, to December 31, 2015. Under current law, the Department of Health and Human Services ("the Department") "may" contract with "a" lead agency in the eastern service area as designated in section 81-3116. The bill would: 1) change the pilot project from being an option, "may", to a requirement, "shall"; 2) it would change the option of the department to contract with "a" lead agency to mandate the contract with "the" current lead agency; and 3) require the pilot project, the contract and the lead agency continue until December 31, 2015, current law does not require participation in a pilot project for any specific time.

Additionally, the bill requires the evaluation of the pilot project be conducted by the same entity that conducted the evaluation pursuant to section 43-4409. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether case management

should be performed by employees of the Department or by a private entity under contract with the Department. The report of the evaluation shall be provided to the HHS Committee, the CEO of the Department, and the Nebraska Families Collaborative on or before December 31, 2015.

Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee Amendment changes, in LB 660, the requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services "shall" extend "to December 31, 2015" the contract for the pilot project in the Eastern Service Area for child welfare privatized case management to the Department "may" extend the contract and removes the required date for extending the contract.

The Committee Amendment alters the evaluation of the pilot project, if continued. Under the amendment the evaluation will be completed by the Legislature rather than by the Department of Health and Human Services. The evaluation shall be completed prior to December 31, 2014 and allows the Legislature to have all necessary resources, including the hiring of a consultant if deemed necessary. Finally, the amendment requires the department, and any child welfare entity contracting with the department, to provide all data and information to the Legislature needed to assist in the evaluation.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson